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Kim Billings
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Three UNH Students Are Named Gates Scholars

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By *Kim Billings*
UNH News Bureau

December 21, 2000

DURHAM, N.H. , Three University of New Hampshire students have been named Gates Millennium Scholars. Gaelle Gourgues, Dung Nguyen and Francine Ndayisaba were selected from more than 62,000 students who were nominated for the scholarship.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program is an initiative funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and administered through the United Negro College Fund. Created a year ago, the Gates Foundation aims to increase the number of low-income, high achieving students of color in undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Gourgues currently is a sophomore majoring in psychology. A native of Haiti, she arrived in New York City in January 1999, not knowing any English. Her uncle enrolled her in an English-as-a-Second-Language program, which she completed in July. She enrolled as a first-year student at UNH that fall.

Following her first semester, she was invited to the UNH Honors Program. Gourgues works with the students of color orientation program, CONNECT. She also served as an Orientation Leader for the UNH freshman orientation program in June.

Nguyen, a first-year student from Manchester, was nominated by one of her high school teachers. A native of Vietnam, Nguyen took part in UNH's Upward Bound program in high school, which included a summer in Durham taking classes, preparing for the SAT exams and working on college and scholarship applications. She also is involved with the CONNECT program. Nguyen majors in economics.

Ndayisaba is a senior majoring in business administration with a concentration in accounting. A native of Rwanda, she is the mother of a three-year-old daughter and a fulltime student who works part time in the student computing center.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program provides \$50 million in scholarship funds per year, financially

assisting a total of 20,000 economically disadvantaged students over a 20-year period, beginning this past September. The program provides support for four years of undergraduate work and for graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in math, science, engineering, education or library science.

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